

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), SA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST--

MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID

REF: STATE 195288

SUMMARY: PRINCE FAHD WELCOMES SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, AND PREFERS HE COME SOMETIME BETWEEN AUGUST 25-27 (INCLUSIVE). FURTHER DETAILS ON SCHEDULING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL FOLLOW AFTER CHARGE TALKS TO ROYAL PROTOCOL. FAHD SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THE SECRETARY'S MISSION SUCCEED THIS TIME. OTHERWISE ALL THE MODERATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST--WHO ARE DOING BETTER NOW THAN THEY HAVE FOR YEARS--WILL FACE RENEWED RADICAL PRESSURE. IT WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT ANY PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL ALSO PROVIDED SYRIA AN ASSURANCE OF SIMILAR BENEFITS. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY FAHD WILL EMPHASIZE THAT SAUDI ARABIA NEEDS ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED RAPID PROVISION OF U.S. ARMS AND TRAINING FOR ITS SELF DEFENSE. HE IS WORRIED THAT JORDAN'S DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING HAWK MISSILES COULD PORTEND DIFFICULTIES FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S MILITARY DEVELOPMENT ALSO. END SUMMARY.

1. I PRESENTED MESSAGE REFTEL TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD MORNING AUGUST 20 (MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON AUGUST 19

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WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE PRINCE WAS FASTING THAT DAY AND FELT

WEAK AFTER SEEING SUDANESE PRESIDENT OFF AT THE AIRPORT).

2. PRINCE FAHD SAID MESSAGE WOULD BE PASSED TO KING KHALID AND THAT YOU WOULD BE A MOST WELCOME VISITOR. AS FOR THE POSSIBLE DATES OF THE VISIT HE PREFERRED THAT IT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THURSDAY AUGUST 28. MONDAY THE 25TH, TUESDAY THE 26TH OR WEDNESDAY THE 27TH LOOKED ALL RIGHT, AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO LEARNING OF YOUR PREFERENCES SOON. (MORE DETAILS ON DATES AND SCHEDULING WILL FOLLOW AFTER I MEET WITH HEAD OF ROYAL DIWAN THIS EVENING.)

3. I ASKED PRINCE IF THERE WERE ANY MATTERS HE MIGHT WISH TO MENTION NOW THAT HE WOULD PURSUE FURTHER IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU. FAHD SAID HE BELIEVED THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S ACTIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR HAD HELPED TO BRING ABOUT A MORE STABLE MODERATE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE HOPED SAUDIS COULD SERVE AS A USEFUL BACKDROP TO YOUR RENEWED EFFORTS. AFTER HIS RECENT CONTACTS WITH SYRIAN, SUDANESE, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS, HE THOUGHT THE PROSPECTS FOR MODERATES IN THE AREA WERE BETTER THAN AT ANY TIME IN MANY YEARS.

4. IT WAS ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER, THAT YOUR PEACE INITIATIVE SUCCEED. A FAILURE OR EVEN INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS WOULD SPELL TROUBLE FOR SADAT, AL-ASAD, AND SAUDI ARABIA. LATENT OPPOSITION TO ALL MODERATES WOULD BE FANNED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND PEOPLE LIKE QADDHAFI ("YOU DON'T KNOW IF HE'S RIGHT OR LEFT OR UP OR DOWN"). IT WAS IMPORTANT ALSO THAT SYRIA NOT FEEL IT WAS BEING LEFT OUT OF THE BENEFITS OF YOUR EFFORTS. ALMOST AS BAD FAILURE WOULD BE AN OUTCOME WHEREBY EGYPT APPEARED TO BE WASHING ITS HANDS OF OTHER PENDING ISSUES AND SETTLING DOWN TO COEXISTING WITH ISRAEL. I DREW TO HIS ATTENTION THAT YOUR ORAL MESSAGE TO HIS MAJESTY LOOKED TO A FINAL PEACE BEYOND WHATEVER MIGHT BE CONCLUDED NOW, AND SAID I HAD PROVIDED THE ROYAL DIWAN WITH COPIES OF YOUR MOST RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE YOU MADE IT CLEAR THE U.S. WOULD WORK FOR PROGRESS ON ALL ISSUES.

5. AS TO BILATERAL MATTERS, FAHD SAID HE WOULD STRESS WITH YOU FIRST THE NEED FOR RAPID, SECURE, AND UNINTER-SECRET

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RUPTED PROVISION OF U.S. ARMS AND TRAINING. IT WAS WELL KNOWN, HE SAID, THE KINGDOM HAD NO AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS AGAINST ANYONE IN THE AREA BUT IT HAD TO BE CONFIDENT OF ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. SAUDI ARABIA HAD RECEIVED MANY ATTRACTIVE OFFERS FROM EUROPEAN NATIONS THAT WANTED TO HELP ITS MILITARY DEVELOPMENT, BUT FAHD WANTED TO REMAIN FIRMLY IN THE AMERICAN CORNER. JORDAN'S DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING HAWK MISSILES WORRIED HIM BECAUSE OF THE TROUBLE THIS COULD

CAUSE KING HUSSEIN AND WHAT IT MIGHT PORTEND FOR SAUDI ARABIA.
HE MIGHT ALSO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE U.S.-SAUDI JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMISSIONS WHOSE WORK HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY ON THE WHOLE.
FINALLY, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REVIEW ENERGY MATTERS IF
YOU WISHED. I SAID HE PROBABLY COULD COUNT ON THE ENERGY
QUESTION BEING BROUGHT UP BUT DID NOT GO INTO THE MATTER
FURTHER.
HORAN

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